

PTO/SB/30 (5/2000)

Approved for use through 10/01/2005. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number

09/814,252

Filing Date

21 March 2001

First Named Inventor

Nancy D. HANSON

Group Art Unit

1634

Examiner Name

Frank Wei Min LU

Attorney Docket Number

180.0003 0103

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a.  Previously submitted
- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on 27 January 2004  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
- Amendment/Reply
  - Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - Other Petition for Extension of Time

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees**

- The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-4895
- RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
  - Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2036 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	<u>Ann M. MUETING</u>	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	<u>33,977</u>
Signature	<u>Ann M. Mueting</u>	Date	<u>March 2, 2004</u>

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 51.8:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Transmittal Letter and the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 2nd day of March, 2004, at 2:10 PM (Central Time).

Signature: Kelly J. Menard  
Printed Name: Kelly J. Menard

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES AND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.